

To: Bohan, Suzanne[bohan.suzanne@epa.gov]
From: Morning Consult
Sent: Fri 12/16/2016 12:46:44 PM
Subject: Morning Consult Energy: Red States Send Trump a Plan to End Greenhouse Gas Rule

By Jack Fitzpatrick

Today's Washington Brief

- A group of Republican states asked President-elect Donald Trump to quickly undo the Clean Power Plan, offering a four-part plan to end it. (The Hill)
- A group of ethanol and agriculture companies called Trump an "advocate" of the Renewable Fuel Standard in a letter. (Washington Examiner)
- Trump's transition team announced it had picked Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-Mont.) to lead the Department of the Interior. (Politico)

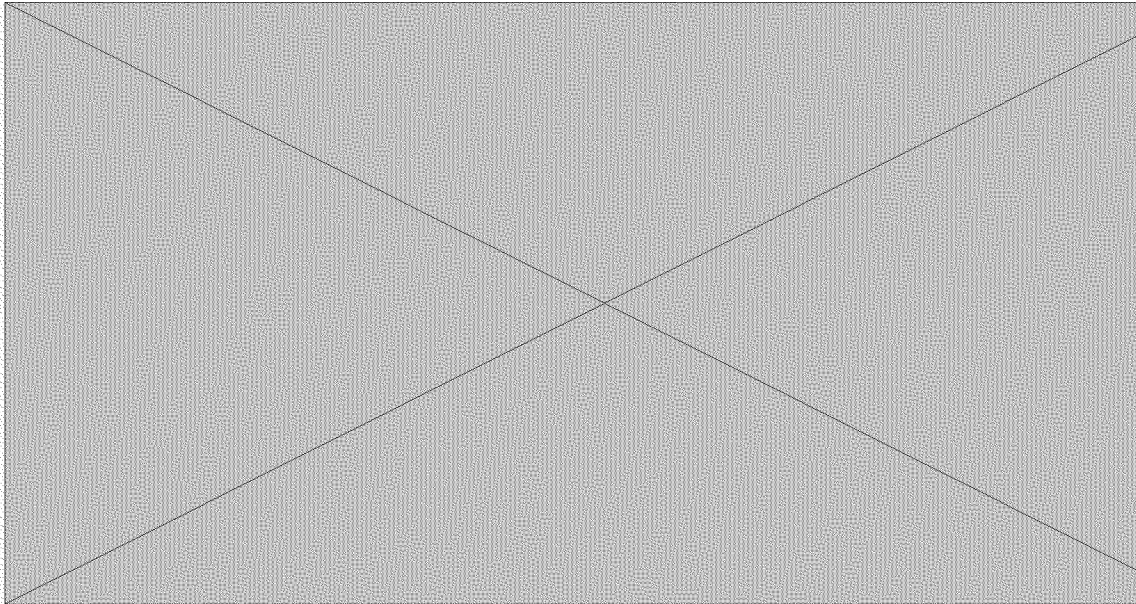
Today's Business Brief

- Exelon will hire 400 workers for two nuclear plants after Illinois passed a plan approving subsidies for the plants. (The Associated Press)
- A judge approved the bankruptcy plan of the U.S. arm of Spanish renewable energy company Abengoa. (The Wall Street Journal)
- Oil dropped slightly on Friday as some traders sold out of long positions, but producers showed signs of sticking to an agreement to limit output. (Reuters)

Today's Chart Review

U.S. oil and natural gas proved reserves declined in 2015 because of lower prices

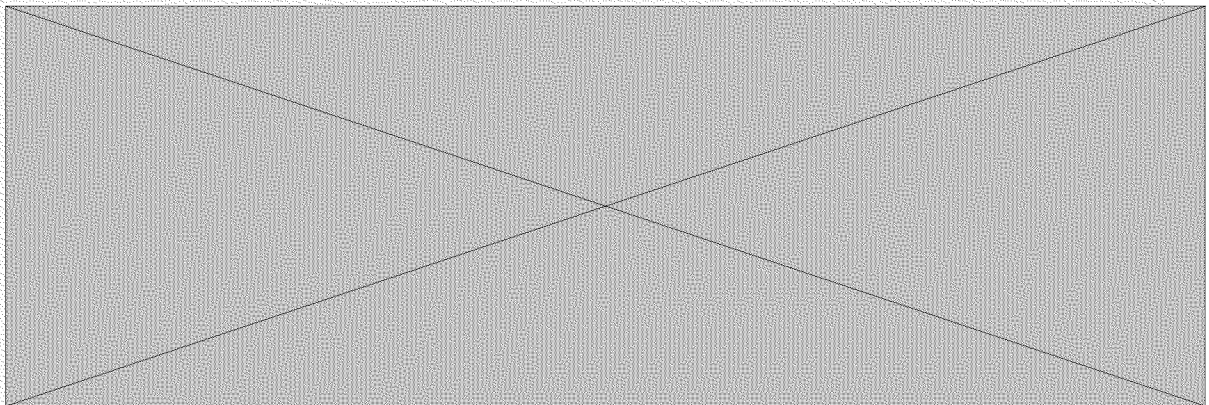
U.S. Energy Information Administration



Mark Your Calendars (All Times Eastern)

Friday

No events scheduled



General

Trump makes it official: Zinke for Interior Matthew Nussbaum, Politico

President-elect Donald Trump officially announced his nomination of first-term Montana Republican Rep. Ryan Zinke to lead the Interior Department on Thursday. "He has built one of the strongest track records on championing

regulatory relief, forest management and public land issues," Trump said in

EPA funds pollution-tracking network in Baltimore, Louisiana **John Siciliano, Washington Examiner**

The Environmental Protection Agency Thursday announced it had given Baltimore with seed money to install a regionwide pollution tracking system in an experiment to make "big data" part of environmental monitoring. The \$40,000 in seed money was given by the EPA to Baltimore and New Orleans, La., which were both chosen as part of a competition for the best design that uses mobile technologies and "citizen scientists" to monitor pollution. The surge in Internet-enabled products and smartphones, to monitor pollution.

Feds block northern Minnesota mining project **Devin Henry, The Hill**

Federal regulators have rejected a mining project in northern Minnesota, saying it poses a risk to a federal wilderness area in the region. The Department of Interior also said it would consider removing a large swath of land from the federal mineral leasing program.

Murkowski: 'Early January' Is Timeline for Perry Energy Sec. Confirmation Hearing **Kerry Pickett, Daily Caller**

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Chairman Lisa Murkowski joined fellow Republicans committee chairmen Wednesday she looks forward to considering Trump's nomination of Rick Perry as secretary of energy in "early January." "I welcome the president's nomination of former Gov. Rick Perry to be Secretary of Energy," Murkowski said in a statement.

Humans have now carved up the wilderness into 600,000 little pieces **Chris Mooney, The Washington Post**

Scientists Thursday provided a global map of one of the most pervasive, but least recognized, ways humans are marring the coherence of the natural world - by building ever more roads. Roads fragment natural habitats, and the more of them there are, the smaller and more compromised those habitats become.

California adopts nation's first energy rules for computers **Rob Nikolewski, San Diego Union-Tribune**

The California Energy Commission Wednesday passed sweeping energy efficiency standards for commercial buildings, monitors in an effort to reduce power costs, becoming the first state in the country to adopt such rules. The regulations promise to reduce energy consumption by computers by about one-third, saving ratepayers some \$37 million in utility bills by 2027, and figure to have impacts far beyond California.

Dollar Hits Speed Bump in Fed-Driven Rally; Bonds Stem Declines **Cecile Gutscher and Natasha Dornier, Bloomberg News**

The dollar's advance stalled as the market moved on a new financial-market landscape created by the Federal Reserve's shift to a tighter policy path in 2017. The greenback fell against the euro, touching the highest since 2003 on Thursday while stocks rose.

Oil & Natural Gas

Cost of pump-at-will oil policy sends Saudi OPEC U-turn **Rania El Gamal and Dmitry Zhdanov, Reuters**

Saudi Arabia has long said it could produce as much as 12 million barrels per day (bpd) of oil if needed, but that claim – which would require huge capital spending to access some of the kingdom's reserves – has never been tested. Sources say the kingdom may have exceeded its current limits by extracting a record of around 10.7 million bpd of oil in 2016, which could be one reason why Riyadh pushed so hard for a global production cap.

OPEC Head: U.S. Should Join Future Deal to Cut Production **Jack Fitzpatrick, Morning Consult**

OPEC Secretary General Mohammed Barkindo on Thursday said the United States should join future deals to cut oil production, saying no country is an island when it comes to price. The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries struck a much-awaited deal in November to collectively cut production by 3.6 percent for the first time in 10 years.

Utilities & Infrastructure

New North Dakota governor in for pipeline

The Associated Press

New North Dakota Gov. Doug Burdick says he supports completion of the Dakota Access oil pipeline. The Republican governor's office Thursday.

Energy East pipeline woes cast doubt on Canada's Atlantic coast **Mitch MacDonald, Reuters**

For years, heavy equipment operators in Nova Scotia's Underhill has tried to defy the notion that one could only make a living in Canada's poorer east coast by spending most of the time away from home in the nation's western oil patch. One reason Underhill had been successful in working on small private contracts, including snow clearing and wood processing, was the Energy East, a planned 4,600-km (2860-mile) pipeline between Alberta's oil sands and the east coast and the promise of an economic boost it could bring.

Smaller Ohio utility also seeking relief from state regulators **Douglas J. Guth, Midwest Energy**

Dayton Power and Light is requesting a \$100 million annual rider that would allow the Ohio electric utility to maintain its financial integrity, a claim derided by opponents as detrimental to customers. The company should not have to pay for the company's past bad energy bets. The Ohio Public Utilities Commission, which is asking state government for subsidies at consumers' expense, is also asking for state law favoring competitive markets, said Trent Dougherty, general manager with the Ohio Environmental Council (OEC).

Michigan energy overhaul wins approval **Jonathan Oosting, Detroit News**

Michigan legislators Thursday approved a sweeping plan to rewrite state energy policy, backing a late-breaking agreement brokered by Gov. Rick Snyder in the final hours of the legislative session. The heavily lobbied plan, which won bipartisan support before the House and Senate adjourned for the year, would create new approval procedures for utilities planning to replace aging coal-fired power plants, increase incentives for renewable energy production and largely maintain the state's "electric choice" program.

Renewables

Ethanol industry calls Trump and Pence **John Siciliano, Washington Examiner**

The ethanol industry and agricultural advocates have urged President-elect Trump to advocate for renewable fuels in a letter read on Thursday, saying they are ready to work with the incoming administration to create jobs. "Thanks to the efforts of advocates like yourself, the Environmental Protection Agency this November announced goals for the [Renewable Fuel Standard] that match statutory targets, finally getting the [program] back after years of delay," the letter read, signed by agri-business leaders including Daniels Midland, Monsanto, DuPont, the American Coalition for Ethanol, and others that take up the coalition called Fuels America.

U.S. Judge Approves Abengoa Bankruptcy Restructuring Plan **Patrick Fitzgerald, The Wall Street Journal**

A U.S. bankruptcy judge has approved a Chapter 11 plan for the U.S. arm of Spain's Abengoa S.A., a key element in the renewable-energy company's multibillion-dollar debt restructuring.

Trump's Wolves May Gather Around Obama's Energy Nursery **Eric Roston and Brian Eckhouse, Bloomberg News**

Few things divide Barack Obama and Donald Trump as cleanly as the future of energy. Sitting right on top of that divide is the Department of Energy and its advanced research projects agency.

Coal

Settlement Approved for Coal Mines Owned by Governor-Elect **The Associated Press**

A federal judge has approved a settlement requiring pollution reductions and a \$900,000 civil penalty by Appalachian coal mines owned by West Virginia Governor-elect Jim Justice. The Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Justice announced the settlement in September with Southern Coal Corp. and 26 affiliates.

Nuclear

Exelon to hire 400 workers after new law last week **The Associated Press**

Exelon Corp. says it plans to hire more than 1,000 permanent employees to work on capital projects at two Illinois nuclear power plants. The company's Wednesday announcement comes a week after the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission approved a plan that will provide billions of dollars in federal loan guarantees to Exelon to keep the pair of unprofitable nuclear plants from closing. The company says it will continue to operate the plants for the foreseeable future.

Climate

Red states ask Trump for quick action against climate rule **Timothy Cama, The Hill**

Officials from 24 conservative states are asking President-elect Donald Trump to take action on his first day in office to reverse President Obama's climate change rule for power plants. The officials, led by Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey (R), wrote to Trump on Wednesday with a four-part plan to undo the Clean Power Plan and ensure that any future president could not implement a similar policy in the future.

Feeling a Chill? Blame the Polar Vortex and Global Warming. **Tatiana Schlossberg, The New York Times**

On Thursday, temperatures on the East Coast are expected to plummet, and some people - fellow journalists and me included - are looking at you - may start talking about a "polar vortex." We thought you might want to know what the polar vortex is, and how it fits into the larger picture of global warming.

Heat, Hunger and War Force Africa on a 'Road on Fire' **Somini Sengupta, The New York Times**

The slow burn of climate change is making life in sub-Saharan Africa a high-stakes gamble. This year, more than 311,000 people have passed through the region on their way to either Algeria or Libya, and some onward to Europe. The United Nations International Organization for Migration.

EPA Defends New-Source Emissions Rule in Court Brief **Jack Fitzpatrick, Morning Consult**

The Environmental Protection Agency filed a brief with the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals on Wednesday defending its new rule on greenhouse gas emissions from new power plants. The agency says in its brief there is an "extensive record" of projects that show high-

efficiency boilers and carbon capture and storage requirements.

Opinions, Editorials & Commentaries

Focus, Reform and Invest: Energy Policy Agenda for Trump, Congress

Varun Sivaram et al., Morning Consult

In few areas were the differences between the presidential candidates this year starker than energy policy. Hillary Clinton promised Americans a half-billion more solar panels. Donald Trump promised to revive the coal industry.

Research Reports, Issue Briefs & Case Studies

Fueling Destruction: The Unintended Consequences of the Renewable Fuel Standard on Land, Water, and Wildlife National Wildlife Federation

Since Congress passed into law in 2005 a federal mandate to blend corn-based ethanol and other renewable fuels with conventional gasoline, the increased demand for corn - which has replaced nearly all of these mandated fuels to date - has resulted in a major transformation on the landscape. Farmers, hoping to take advantage of high prices for corn and other commodity crops, converted more than 10 million acres of native prairie, rangeland, wetlands, and forests into cropland - a devastating loss of important wildlife habitat and critical ecosystem services like water filtering across the country.

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